

21L.423J/21M.223J

Reading Questions: Session 11

Dena Epstein pp. 30-99; 112-124; 161-190.

What instruments and dances were associated with Africans in the 18th century? What was a banza? A balafo?

What struck you about the description of African dances?

What repressive laws concerning drums and horns were passed during slavery times?

How did African ceremonial occasions differ from British ceremonial occasions? Describe one.

What do we know about African-American worksongs?

What is the function of work songs?

What do you make of the description at the top of p, 73 of Sinful Tunes and Spirituals?

What qualities of African-American music can be identified?

What accounts for the greater preservation of African music in the West Indies?

How early did Africans adopt European instruments and musical styles?

What is “goombay”?

Which story or stories about blacks and music in the 18th and 19th C. did you find most interesting?

How segregated was music-making in the Old South?

What was the African jig?

Captive Africans sang while doing what kinds of work? What were the musical and textual qualities of these songs? What was the meaning of these songs?

Name some of the distinctive characteristics of secular black folk music.